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المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي



لجنة حقوق الإنسان

الدورة الستون

البند ٣ من جدول الأعمال

تنظيم أعمال الدورة

رسالة مؤرخة ١١ آذار/مارس ٢٠٠٤ موجهة من الممثل الدائم لكولومبيا
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة في جنيف إلى القائم بأعمال مفوض الأمم المتحدة
السامي لحقوق الإنسان بالإنباء

رد حكومة كولومبيا على تقرير مفوض الأمم المتحدة السامي لحقوق
الإنسان عن حالة حقوق الإنسان في كولومبيا

أتشرف بأن أحيل رفق هذا، من أجل العرض على لجنة حقوق الإنسان في دورتها الستين، وثيقة تتضمن
رد حكومة كولومبيا* على الوثيقة المعنونة "تقرير مفوض الأمم المتحدة السامي لحقوق الإنسان عن حالة حقوق
الإنسان في كولومبيا" (E/CN.4/2004/13)، وقد قُدمت هذه الوثيقة رسمياً بالفعل في بوغوتا.

ونود في هذا الصدد أن نطلب إدراج "رد حكومة كولومبيا" ضمن الوثائق التي تنظر فيها لجنة حقوق
الإنسان ليس بوصفه "رسالة من حكومة كولومبيا" ولكن بعنوان يعكس محتواه بحق، ونود أن نقترح أن يكون
العنوان هو "رد حكومة كولومبيا على تقرير مفوض الأمم المتحدة السامي لحقوق الإنسان عن حالة حقوق

* يُعَمَّم في المرفق كما ورد، وباللغتين اللتين قُدم بهما فقط.

الإنسان في كولومبيا". وإننا نعتقد أن هذا العنوان سيكون فيه الاعتراف الواجب بالجهود التي تبذلها دولة وحكومة كولومبيا في صياغة الرد الذي نقدمه، والذي يتناول التعليقات الواردة في تقريركم.

وأخيراً فإننا نود أن نطلب عرض رد حكومة كولومبيا على موقع مفوضية الأمم المتحدة السامية لحقوق الإنسان على الإنترنت في أقرب وقت ممكن.

(توقيع): كليمينسيا فوريرو أوكروس

السفيرة

الممثلة الدائمة

Annex

DM 11651

Bogotá D.C., March 10 2004

Excellency,

I have the honour to address Your Excellency on behalf of the Colombian Government in relation to the Report that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will present to the Human Rights Commission during its 60th. session, which includes comments regarding the work of the Office in Colombia in the framework of the agreement between the Government and the High Commissioner's Office.

In that respect, the Colombian Government has studied the Report and wishes to express acknowledgment of the activities of your Office in Colombia, with the aim to unite efforts with the Government to address problems related with the human rights situation in the midst of the complex situation we face. It is of the interest of the Colombian Government to continue working with the support of your Excellency in a joint task that continues to strengthen rule of law and democracy in Colombia.

In this respect, the Government of Colombia acknowledges the importance of the Report's comments, expresses its opinion about these comments and its views about the actions undertaken in relation to each one of the issues in order to improve the human rights situation of the country, underlining, throughout the enclosed document, the efforts made and hoping that those are duly acknowledge by the international community with the aim that our country comes back to a path of welfare for our population.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew Your Excellency the assurances of mi highest consideration.

(Originally signed)

JAIME GIRON DUARTE
Deputy Ministry for Multilateral Issues
in charge of the Office of the Foreign Minister

To His Excellency
Mr. BERTRAND RAMCHARAN
Acting High Commissioner
for Human Rights
United Nations Organisation
Geneva

SUMMARY

The Government of Colombia welcomes the recognition contained in the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the progress and achievements of the Colombian State in guaranteeing and protecting the human rights of its citizens.

It takes particular encouragement from explicit references to: -

- The State's guarantees for all voters and all political groups in the last elections.
- The smooth flow of interlocation between different instances of the State and the Office of the High Commissioner in Colombia.
- The recognized reduction in some serious forms of violation, such as homicide, displacement and massacres; and in attacks on human rights defenders.
- The readiness of the Government to enter into talks with the illegal armed groups.
- The importance of increasing the presence of the law-enforcement forces everywhere, as a guarantee of governance, of a reduction in violence, of prevention and protection.
- The valuable part played by the Ombudsman and the Office of the Procurator General.
- The strengthening of the Protection Programme and the implementation of the inter-institutional early warning committee CIAT.
- Increased public spending on health and education.
- The efforts made to protect indigenous communities.
- The National Accord on gender equity.
- Positive Government action in relation to anti-personnel mines.
- Opportunities for dialogue with human rights and peace organizations, and unions.

The State particularly notes the statement in the Report with regard to the total lack of commitment on the part of the illegal armed groups to human rights and international humanitarian law, their victimization of civil society and their disgraceful sourcing of funds from extortion, kidnap and drug-trafficking. The State shares the position of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia that "recommendations were neither taken up nor respected by the illegal armed groups, who continued to perpetrate serious crimes against the civilian population"¹

The Government of Colombia cordially but emphatically makes certain observations with regard to the Report:

First, the Report does not recognize the gravity of the threat that our institutions and Colombian society in general have been facing at the hands of the illegal armed groups who use terrorist methods. They protect and exploit more than 100,000 hectares of coca leaf, able to produce 700 tons of cocaine a year; they kidnap more than 1,500 civilians a year; they blow up a hundred bridges, sow minefields, and use all kinds of explosive devices against ordinary people; they destroy 483 transmission towers and 62 communications towers; they murder 13 mayors and 70 town councilors- and that is only something of what they did in 2002.

¹ Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of Human Rights in Colombia. E/CN.4/2004/013, page 38.

The magnitude of the threat, the resources they hold, their disdain of humanitarian standards, their open affront to democracy and society, and their treacherous terrorist methods have brought about situations which hamper the efforts of the State to guarantee and protect human rights; and they demand countermeasures in proportion to the threat.

The Report does not properly appreciate the nature of the policy of Democratic Security as a mean of guaranteeing security for all Colombians and their welfare; it questions the legitimacy and purposes of the policy and it conceals the importance that it has to guarantee and protect human rights. At some points the Report seems to suggest that the policy is a threat to the exercise of rights; but this is contrary to the realities of results, and to the perceptions of the population concerned.

The Government considers that the Report undervalues the achievements of 2003 such as the reduction of the homicide rate from 68 to 52 per 100,000 inhabitants, the lowest in 16 years; murders of union leaders have fallen 57% and forced displacement 52%; massacres have fallen 33%, kidnaps 26%; and the population of very large parts of Colombia, after no more than a year, can now think and move around freely. These are significant facts that should be taken into account in the Report's appraisal of the situation of Colombia. We are not satisfied with our progress, because we cannot tolerate a situation where there is even one Colombian whose rights are violated. But the facts show that many lives have been saved and protected due to the decisive action of the legitimate institutions.

The statement that Colombian society is polarised cannot be understood in the light of independent polls that give 78% support to President Uribe, 80% favourable image to the Army and 67% support to the Police. And on the other hand, 91% have an unfavourable opinion of the paramilitaries and 99% an unfavourable opinion of the FARC and the ELN.

There is healthy political debate about ideas and alternatives: at the same time, there is a unanimous rejection of violence and total repudiation of terrorism and the funding of terrorism by drug-trafficking and indiscriminate extortion. There should always be political debate: and at the same time, violence and terrorism should be absolutely rejected.

As President Uribe said in his address to the European Parliament, "if we can strengthen the State, our pluralist democracy will have progressed from formal and rhetorical guarantees to real and effective ones. The Referendum, proposed by the Government and held on October 25, was discussed and approved by Congress. Its text was amended by the opposition and examined and cut down by the Constitutional Court. The abstainers and the opposition had every opportunity to express their points of view. Nobody could complain that his freedoms were curtailed, or that he faced Government hostility".

"The next day, the people elected 30 Departmental Governors from 133 candidates; 914 mayors from 3,441 candidates; 398 Departmental assemblymen from 373 lists with 2,723 candidates; town councilors were elected from 6,105 lists with 56,590 candidates – some 11,000 of them; and 3,156 lists with 13,387 were voted to elect local administration boards. The number of candidates in those elections was double that of the previous elections."

“In several towns and Departments the winners came from outside the traditional parties, from former guerrilla groups and from “the left” or “the opposition”. The basic concern of the

Government was to make them secure in their campaigns. The Government’s decision is that it will work with them now that they have been elected, within the Constitution and with transparency and above all with the patriotic intent to unite Colombia in the midst of its diversity”.

So indeed, Colombia has a pluralist democracy, a State of Law which is legitimate and widely supported by the people, facing unreasonable threats that have no popular support and no sense of political responsibility; and that resorts to terrorist methods in attacking (or supposedly, defending) the State; people who have indiscriminately taken the civilian population and its democratic developments as their targets.

The Democratic Security policy has been applied in 2003 to protect rights, without distinction of social position, political opinion, race, creed or gender. It is a policy which above aims to guarantee and safeguard rights and freedoms; it is a policy that claims its legitimacy from its origins in democracy, its popular support and its respect for human rights in the means it uses in order to achieve its ends.

This policy is part of an overall concept of government action. There is a concern for transparency in public administration – an end to corruption, demagoguery, exchanges of political favors and the primacy of agreements between those at the top, to the detriment of everyone else.

The Government should be acting to favour those least protected, through economic and social reactivation. Some of the progress made in this area can be seen in the revolution in education, which has in a single year reduced the shortage of places by one quarter, taking in 500,000 new students; it can be seen in the fall in unemployment by 3 points, creating 1,241,218 new jobs; it can be seen in the State technical education service, whose enrolments rose from 1,070,000 to 2,266,768 over the year, exceeding the target by 16%; it can be seen in the 1,061,651 new beneficiaries of the health system; and in the 2,463,363 children who benefit from school restaurants and 322,051 more who receive infant breakfasts.

This picture of Colombian realities leads us to a clear conclusion: the strengthening of democratic authority in all parts of the country is the best guarantee that human rights can be exercised in full. Colombia was an example not of a strong State that might threaten human rights, but of a democratic State which was not able to guarantee its citizens the enjoyment of their rights. We should not be afraid that our capacity to protect the State should be strengthened in a country with traditions of democracy, institutions, the Constitution, the law and the qualities of its people.

The Colombian State has been equally committed to the applying the recommendations of the previous report, and has worked in close coordination with the Office of the High Commissioner and friendly countries in doing so:

- Prevention through prompt response to the Early Warning System, or protection of the most vulnerable;
- Protection of communities at risk;
- A stronger local State capacity to promote, guarantee and protect rights;
- Prompt response to international organizations;
- Leadership in processes to lessen local tensions;
- Support for investigations and dynamic action on the part of the Special Committee for Investigations in cases of serious violation;
- Education in human rights;
- Control over the conduct of the law-enforcement forces;
- Combat against all illegal armed groups with the same intensity and in the same fashion;
- Response to the vital and basic demands of society;
- Work to ensure that the culture of human rights takes root in society;
- Responsible legislation,

These, amongst other things, were part of the daily activities of the State in 2003.

The State acted with responsibility, interest and commitment. Human rights policy had a prominent place in the concerns and activities of the Government, under the coordination of the Vice-President. Human rights policy has gone beyond the recommendations and is treated as an integral concept: as President Alvaro Uribe has said, “Our country is open to inspection by the international community. We have the presence, at our own request, of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Its recommendations are received with respect. Where the Government believes that they cannot be implemented, they are the object of frank discussion.”.

The Government has made all these efforts with complete openness towards the international community, and has only resorted to States of Exception which form part of the Colombian Constitutional order, in exceptional cases.

The political support that London gave to Colombian democracy was important encouragement to this country in facing its highly complex situation. The Colombian State repeats its willingness to develop constructive relationships with the international community, where the objectives are to strengthen democracy, guarantee human rights in Colombia and secure development with opportunities for all.

In these relationships, founded on shared humanitarian values, on democratic convictions, on the common desire to overcome poverty and reject violence, terrorism and drug-trafficking, the people of Colombia hopes to continue to be able to rely on world solidarity, making efforts that express a shared responsibility to defend those values and overcome those problems..

In parallel to the joint work on the recommendations and the implementation of its policy to promote, guarantee and protect human rights, the Colombian State will apply its best efforts to control the unspeakable attacks made by all the illegal groups on the rights of Colombians, to secure greater effectiveness in the justice system and to be quick to investigate accusations

against members of the law-enforcement forces who ignore their legal obligations and the orders of their superiors.

The world may be sure that the enemy of humanity and shared values of human dignity is not the Colombian State. The enemy is he who uses violence against civilians, fed by drug-trafficking and kidnap; who indiscriminately uses antipersonnel mines and other weapons prohibited by International Humanitarian Law; who does not hesitate to use terrorism against the will of a democracy, against the people of Colombia.

The results in the field of human rights, security and social welfare are clear and conclusive. There is a very long way to go, and there are many obstacles to overcome. The problems have not yet been finally solved, but Colombia is making progress in the right direction to do so.

**CONSIDERATIONS OF THE STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA
IN RELATION TO THE REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS 2003**

The Colombian State recognizes the work of the Colombia Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, in International Committee of the red Cross, a number of international organizations and friendly countries who have contributed significantly to the work of strengthening the State of Law and democracy in Colombia and protecting its people in the midst of our complex realities.

Colombia has deep gratitude for their commitment, their effort to understand and to act in such difficulties, for sharing them with the people of Colombia, and for the experiences they transmit as the accumulated history of mankind in the struggle to build democracy with full rights and peaceful coexistence for all.

The Presentation of the report, made at the request of the United Nations Human Rights Commission at the 59th Period of Sessions offers the Colombian State to express its opinions and to share its achievements in a respectful and sincere dialogue with the international community.

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The Colombian State understands the difficulties that the Colombia Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights may have in preparing a report that satisfies the very wide range of opinions held about Colombia around the world. But we consider it to be our duty to explain our point of view - shared by millions of our countrymen - with respect to the situation in Colombia, to explain Government policy and to present the results so far achieved.

Colombia faces a threat to its democratic institutions and its people due to the growing use of terror by the various armed groups who have discarded any possibility of negotiation, deliberation or persuasion, and have no consideration for the international community or humanitarian standards.

Colombia also suffers from the attacks of those who, on the arguments of the absence of the State and the cruelty of other groups, have taken it upon themselves to offer armed Defence, and daily make a victim of the society they claim to defend.

Colombia has achieved deep changes in its democracy, its institutions and its society, overcoming groups who claimed such purposes by force of arms, and who are today an obstacle to democratic development and the elimination of poverty.

It is in this context that the Government received a mandate from the people to implement a policy of Democratic Security.. This is a policy not closed to dialogue and negotiation, but one that demands good faith, a cessation of hostilities against civilians and the presence of the international community as guarantor and facilitator.

It is a security policy for all Colombians without distinction of social position, political opinion or religious creed. It is enough to examine the results of the recent elections in which in the capital Bogotá, in the Department of Valle and in hundreds of Municipal districts, voters chose their new authorities from parties traditionally belonging to the opposition; and the candidates enjoyed all the guarantees, and their successes have been respected.

As President Uribe said in his address to the European Parliament, “if we can strengthen the State, our pluralist democracy will have progressed from formal and rhetorical guarantees to real and effective ones. The Referendum, proposed by the Government and held on October 25, was discussed and approved by Congress. Its text was amended by the opposition and examined and cut down by the Constitutional Court. The abstainers and the opposition had every opportunity to express their points of view. Nobody could complain that his freedoms were curtailed, or that he faced Government hostility”.

“The next day, the people elected 30 Departmental Governors from 133 candidates; 914 mayors from 3,441 candidates; 398 Departmental assemblymen from 373 lists with 2,723 candidates;

town councillors were elected from 6,105 lists with 56,590 candidates – some 11,000 of them; and 3,156 lists with 13,387 were voted to elect local administration boards. The number of candidates in those elections was double that of the previous elections.”

“In several towns and Departments the winners came from outside the traditional parties, from former guerrilla groups and from “the left” or “the opposition”. The basic concern of the Government was to make them secure in their campaigns. The Government’s decision is that it will work with them now that they have been elected, within the Constitution and with

transparency and above all with the patriotic intent to unite Colombia in the midst of its diversity”.

It is a security policy that attempts to take the democratic authority of the State of Law to the furthest corners of our territory in order to guarantee the exercise of the rights enshrined in our Constitution. What guarantees can the inhabitants of 174 of our Municipalities have where there is no presence of the law-enforcement forces? What guarantees can a peasant-farmer have when the illegal armed groups impose their designs on him? The realities of Colombia, and of any country, show that the presence of legitimately constituted institutions is the best safeguard for the full exercise of constitutional freedoms and guarantees.

The security policy has clear objectives, concepts and methods:

- To reinforce and guarantee the State of Law across the country by strengthening democratic authority, the free exercise of the authority of the institutions, the rule of law and the active participation of the citizen in matters of common interest (Paragraph 4 of the Democratic Security policy).
- Security is understood to be the protection of the citizen and democracy by the State, with the cooperation, solidarity and commitment of the whole of society, on the basis of the protection of the rights of all citizens, regardless of gender, race, origin, language, religion or political persuasion; of the protection of values, the plurality of political debate and democratic institutions; and the solidarity and cooperation of all citizens in the Defence of democratic values, expressed not only in the exercise of the vote, but also in the respect and promotion of civic values in which the plurality of political debate takes place, in the performance of an active role in public affairs and in the Defence of the freedoms of all. (Paragraph 6 of the Policy).
- All the actions of the Government will be taken within the framework of the law. There will be rigorous observance of human rights and strict compliance with International Humanitarian Law, as required by the Constitution and the law. Any violation or abuse of human rights committed by a member of the law-enforcement forces or any other State agency will be unhesitatingly punished by the appropriate disciplinary or criminal process. (Paragraph 24 of the Policy).

On the basis of these guidelines the State, with the cooperation of the public, has defended Colombian society and its democratic institutions in full observance of the Constitution, the law and international treaties. This has been done under the control of the Constitutional Court, recognized as one of the most progressive of its kind in the world, it has been done with independent organs of control and the presence of the media and of all international organizations that have wished to share our experiences. This approach comes from a deep

democratic conviction and a sacred commitment to all Colombians who desire a peaceful, prosperous, democratic and inclusive country.

The fairness of this policy is shown not only by the popular support and the rebirth of hope, but also the results won over 18 months of effort: the death of 5,800 more Colombians, the kidnap of 786 and the displacement of 197,000 have been avoided. In 2003 massacres fell 33%, the murder of union leader by 57%, raids on villages by 84%. Millions of Colombians have recovered their right to move around freely, their right to organization or enterprise, with the guarantees of control over the main highways and all the major cities.

This significant reduction in human rights violations, encouraged by the Policy, is largely due to the impact which the offensive attitude of the law-enforcement forces has had on the illegal armed groups. There is a stronger presence of the Police, who have now arrived in all Municipalities; the High Mountain units have been created; airpower has been increased and become more effective, and sustained operations have been launched. All of these have weakened the illegal armed groups.

In this context, the number of paramilitaries captured has risen 133% and the number of guerrillas captured by 85%. Both groups have suffered greater casualties: the guerrillas have lost 14% more men and the paramilitaries 85%. The process has strengthened the security of the citizen and the protection of public assets. There was a fall of 32% in the number of explosive attacks on transmission towers, 69% in attacks on communications towers, 84% on water supplies and 67% on bridges.

WORK WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE 2002 REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The recommendations of the Office of the high Commissioner have been studied with great respect and attention. They have been taken responsibly and without opportunism, and have been seen to be a valuable tool for the development of a human rights policy that does not stop at the recommendations. We see with satisfaction that many of the recommendations correspond to policies successfully and democratically adopted, as contained in the Development Plan.

The State prefers a shared, sincere and open analysis to a formal acceptance of recommendations which it has no real commitment to implement: transparent treatment rather than populist promises. The State is concerned at appraisals that reduce the recommendations to the record on a specific issue, or an evaluation that ignores the realities and a commitment to actions taken in order to secure the welfare of its people.

We attach a chart of actions performed by the State as a whole in cooperation with the Office and the international community in order to apply the recommendations. We draw attention to some particular examples of this.

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

The Government, by agreement with the Ombudsman, decided to implement the Inter-Institutional Early Warning Committee (CIAT) in November 2002 as a response from the State to make the early warning system effective. During 2003 CIAT analyzed 84 Risk Reports, of which 32 became Early Warnings. In addition, 53 Risk Report Follow-up Notes were produced and studied and some recommendations were made to the civil and military authorities in the regions involved; and follow-up was implemented. The government and the Ombudsman gave training to authorities across the country in response to these reports and a follow-up mechanism was adopted for the actions taken.

The follow-up system has been constantly at the disposal of the Office of the high Commissioner and the Ombudsman. At the time of writing progress is being made on regional risk studies in order to implement strategies that will affect the risk in structural terms. The reduction in mass violations of human rights and the presence of this type of incident appears in less than 1% of the Risk Reports studied: this shows the commitment to the response. Today, we face new challenges, this recommendation must be related to the protection of communities at risk and to stem the systematic violation of human rights, a new form of aggression in reaction to the control of mass violations.

PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS

The Protection Program for especially vulnerable individuals has been strengthened. In 2003 the Programme received \$34,000 million, which has made it possible to increase coverage to 9,208 direct and indirect beneficiaries.

The local authorities have acquired an increasing commitment to the protection of these individuals. Security meetings are held every month in several parts of the country, to analyze and adopt such measures.

One example of this refers to union leaders, and is the result of the sessions for dialogue and relief of social tension presided over by the Vice-President and the Minister for Social protection with the participation of the presidents of unions and industry associations, regional leaders and authorities, to adopt measures of prevention with verifiable and quantifiable commitments. Sessions of this kind have so far been held in Valledupar, Barranquilla, Arauca, Barrancabermeja, Bucaramanga, Cali, Pereira and Medellín.

PROTECTION OF COMMUNITIES AT RISK

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Social Solidarity Network (RSS) have promoted meetings with the United Nations System to define effective measures. As a result, visits were made to three regions and appraisals were produced. RSS promoted an independent evaluation of risk factors, threats, vulnerabilities and protection strategies. The recommendations of the study are now being implemented.

Mixed mechanisms for verification, accompaniment, sensitization and protection have been implemented jointly with the Ombudsman, in application of precautionary measures. These actions cover the Embera in Sinu. The Afrocolombians in Cacarica, Jiguamiandó and Curbaradó, the Kankuamos in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and San Jose de Apartadó. These measures

combine the presence every two months of the Government, the organs of control and NGOs with the permanent assistance of Community Defenders in the communities. This strategy seeks to check on the situation, take preventive deterrent measures and to strengthen relations between the communities and the local authorities in order to provide adequate protection. As of 1 March permanent mechanisms of accompaniment were implemented in the Massif (Departments of Cauca and Nariño) and in Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta,

THE INCORPORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INTO THE FORMAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Government has understood the need to advance actions designed to generate changes of attitude that will favor the respect for human rights and promote a culture based on the principles of tolerance, respect for difference, democracy and the State of Law. The Ministry of Education therefore signed an inter-institutional letter of commitment with the Ombudsman in September 2003, in order to “encourage the formation in, respect for and practice of human rights from within the Colombian education system”. The commitment covers the following:

- Implementation of the mandate of the Development Plan to include human rights education in Colombia’s schools;
- Advancement of actions to coordinate and provide institutional support for the formulation of the National Plan for formation in, respect for and the practice of human rights from within the education system;
- Design, validation and implementation of a pilot plan for form formers who will take the responsibility for executing the Plan.

In addition, the Ministry has developed some curricular guidelines for Constitution, democracy, ethics, human values and social sciences in which human rights are reference points to guide the design of the curriculum involved. The Ministry is also developing a program of Civic Skills.

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION FOR THE LAW-ENFORCEMENT FORCES

The Democratic Security policy reflects an awareness that the authority of the law-enforcement forces rests on the legitimacy that they earn in the eyes of the public. It therefore states that the education programs in human rights and international humanitarian law must be strengthened. Permanent Directive 800-4 of February 2003 describes the plan to integrate human rights and international humanitarian law into military and police doctrine; and today, all courses for formation, promotion or specialization have these two elements incorporated into their content.

The Ministry of Defence has agreements with the Interamerican Institute of Human Rights in San Jose Costa Rica, the International Institute of Humanitarian Law of San Remo, Italy, and two universities in Bogotá, Javeriana and Externado. These institutions have supported the education in the two disciplines in their programs for the formation of teachers and instructors and in non-formal training activities.

The Police have implemented a process of formation in human rights law and international humanitarian law, seeking to integrate the two elements across the whole range of subjects; and they have produced an educational manual for the teaching of international humanitarian law.

ANTIPERSONNEL MINES

Government policy is being implemented, and the provisions of the Ottawa Convention are being complied with, as has been acknowledged by the Colombia Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, explicitly mentioned in the Report³ and in the agencies of the United Nations System.

In order to consolidate the planning processes, the National Action Plan against Mines was approved in 2003 and is now being executed; and progress is being made in the decentralization process to involve in its development the departmental and municipal authorities. The Information Management System has been strengthened as an instrument for specific policy adoption; civil and military authorities, non-governmental and social organizations in Information and Education for accident prevention have been trained; programs oriented to attend to the victims of mines have been executed and 23,451 mines held in store by the armed forces are being disposed of in accordance with the Destruction Plan. To date, three mine destruction events have taken place.

Given the nature, seriousness and scope of the problem, the Government has allocated \$2,500 million in its 2004 budget in this area, despite fiscal constraints. The signposting of mined camps, as a component of the accident prevention, will be one of the major priorities during this year.

APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The policy of Democratic Security provides that the security of Colombians will be restored in accordance with the precepts of the Constitutional order and respect for human rights, and with full application of International Humanitarian Law, in contrast to the arbitrary actions and abuses committed by illegal armed groups. For this purpose, the following actions have been defined:

- Continuous training in International Humanitarian Law.
- Permanent training is being arranged with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to apply the principles of International Humanitarian Law in planning and conducting operations.
- All air operations must be approved by the air-force High Command, as a control mechanism.

³ “Following the recommendation of the High Commissioner with regard to performance of international obligations with respect to anti-personnel mines, positive action has been taken in government policy, particularly in the framework of the AntiPersonnel mines Observatory and especially in the preparation of a detailed national action plan to combat mines; and the Information System for Action against Antipersonnel Mines (ISMMA) has been reinforced. The Office notes with interest that the Colombian State started on the destruction of mines in store on 26 June 2003, in accordance with the Ottawa Convention” Report of the Colombia Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights E/CN.4/2004/013 p. 14

As a result of the actions performed, in the 2002 annual report of the Ombudsman it can be seen that out of 9,000 denunciations of violations of international humanitarian law with known violators, only 261 are attributed to members of the law-enforcement forces and in 2003, 161 accusations were reported.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

As part of the fight against impunity in human rights violations and infractions to the International Humanitarian Law, the Special Committee approved a project whose execution began when the International Cooperation Agreement was signed in June 2003.

This Committee selected 115 representative cases, several of them proposed by the Colombia Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and has promoted several working commissions with the participation of officers of the Prosecution Service, the Office of the Procurator General and security agencies that have led to the capture of commanders of some illegal self Defence groups, Army and Police officers, hired assassins and material authors of criminal offenses, the confiscation of a considerable amount of *materiél*, weapons, ammunition, communications equipment, videos and documentation.

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

The Government has made a commitment to attend to all aspects of the human rights of all Colombians.

To this effect, the Government is working on a plan called “The 7 Tools for Equity”, namely: the educational revolution, social protection, promotion of economic solidarity, social management of the rural areas, public services, a country of owners and the quality of urban life.

Despite fiscal constraints, the actions promoted during 2003 regarding social, economic and cultural rights, sought to bring benefits to the neediest groups and to improve the standard of living of the population as a whole. One irrefutable proof of this commitment is the existence of the 477,958 new places in basic and intermediate education and 34,848 in higher education, an achievement that has raised the coverage in basic and intermediate education to 83%; the State technical education service increased the number of places available from 1,070,000 to 2,266,768 in the year, thus surpassing the estimate for the period by 16%; 1,241,218 jobs were created; there were 1,061,651 new beneficiaries of the health system; 2,463,363 children benefited from school restaurants and 322,051 receive school breakfasts; the children nutrition programs cover 5,000,000 children; and loans for small enterprises increased by 57% over the last year.

Over the year, the unemployment rate fell 3 points, with unemployment at 12.3% in December.

There at present 20,000 “forest warden families” who protect coca-free areas and supervise the recovery of the forest. Each family obtains approximately US\$ 2,000 per year. The program aims to include 50,000 families.

The experts made initial estimates of economic growth of 2% for 2003, but in the event growth was almost 4%. Private investment increased by 17%.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

The Government has considered that one of its major priorities in the matter of human rights, is the preparation of the National Action Plan for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, now included in the National Development Plan.

There has been progress in the formulation and adoption of the proposal for the method and content of the plan, and in September the document was sent to the Colombia Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the Office expressed its willingness to support the work based on the proposal and made some comments that, after being evaluated, will be adopted if considered relevant. According to the schedule provided, the Plan should be formulated and agreed by the end of June 2004.

As input for the process, the international recommendations were identified and organized around each issue of agreed routes. Progress has been made in the identification of the required institutional offer and of the interlocutors. The team work that has assumed this responsibility has already been formed.

Additionally, the fact that the preparation of the plan requires negotiation and consensus will help to consolidate the process of interlocation with social and non-government organizations in which there is a commitment from the Government and of society as a whole to win full effectiveness for human rights throughout the country.

INTERLOCUTION WITH NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

In fact, as noted in the Report⁴, the Vice President has promoted an dual-purpose interlocation process with social and non-governmental organizations in human rights: on the one hand, it wants to listen and to attend their claims, and on the other, although at present only in its first stages, there is the intention of increasing opportunities for democratic debate on policies, measures and actions in the area of human rights.

Additionally, as also mentioned, interlocation has taken place at regional and sectorial levels. It has taken place at regional level through meetings with spokespersons and delegates from social and non-governmental organizations human rights defenders, civil and military authorities to review the human rights issue; and it has taken place at sectorial level, to discuss specific issues such as human rights of union members or of those who form part of the Medical Mission.

⁴ “Under the leadership of the Vice-President, the government provided new opportunities for interlocation with human rights organizations, peace organizations and unions. Mention should be made of Ministry of Defence Directive 9 of July 2003 ratifying Presidential Directive 7 of the previous administration, of September 1999. Public servants are given instructions in the matter by human rights defenders and the work of their organizations”. Report of the Colombia Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Colombia,. E/N.4/2004/013 p. 24

During 2003 there have been heated arguments between NGOs and the Government, but the Government has continued to make efforts to guarantee that they can work and protect their members. The Government has clearly expressed its point of view, and has disapproved the misinterpretations made by some NGO's or rejected analyses conceived more in terms of political positions than in objectivity. As the President has said "I recognize that the Human Rights NGO's have their place; I value the work of many of them, but I must nonetheless express my disagreement with reports that do not correspond to the facts".

REVIEW OF INTELLIGENCE FILES

Regarding the review of intelligence files, the Vice-President led meetings with NGO's on the subject. Instructions to the law-enforcement forces have been reiterated in that the fact that a person belongs to a social organization or a non-government organization is not a reason for the State to generate intelligence actions around him.

With all the difficulties involved in making intelligence information public in the midst of the threats faced by the State and civil society in Colombia, the Minister of Defence was ready to provide this information to the Office of the Procurator General regarding the listings the Ministry would provide. However, as a result of the Procurator's opinion that this procedure infringes internal norms and concepts of the Constitutional Court, the measure could not be implemented.

The State will keep the instructions on criteria to build files and gather intelligence and will internally review the doctrine and organization of this activity in Defence and national security.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

On 7 November, 2003, the Office of the Attorney General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights signed a letter of understanding that contemplates the commitment of the latter to advise the Office of the Attorney General as a means of strengthening it through the execution of a technical cooperation project. The project provides, amongst other things, the adoption and implementation of the recommendations made by the Office of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the areas of prevention and protection, including the recommendation on the Protection Program.

On 24 February last 24 February, the report of an advisory group for the Witness Protection Program was sent for consideration of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with a view to reinforcing some recommendations and to reformulating others; and to mention other matters such as the importance of offering protection to Prosecution Service officers and the impact of the accusatorial system.

In relation to the need for greater independence of the Human Rights Unit of the Attorney General's Office, the United Nations High Commissioner will support the diagnosis of the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Unit and the creation of a team specialized in the investigation of alleged links between public servants and illegal armed groups.

Regarding the recommendation to file a draft bill to the Congress to regulate the career of employees and officers of the Attorney General's Office, it should be noted that a proposal for a more complete statute law has been filed with a view to achieve service efficiency and excellence and equality of conditions for the initial employment, continuity of employment and dismissal of public servants based on their merits. This project contains the guiding principles of job classification, selection process, contests, provision of positions, performance rating, and withdrawal from the service.

NEGOTIATED SOLUTION

The previous Report recommended that efforts should be made to look for a negotiated solution to the situation of violence. The world is witness to the fact that, since the moment he took office, President Alvaro Uribe-Velez requested the good offices of the Secretary General of the United Nations to this effect. While the Special Representative of the Secretary General has remained at the ready since then, FARC have rejected every possibility of dialogue and demand that the State recognize the violation of humanitarian norms of taking civilian hostages as legitimate acts; and that it accept an inconvenient agreement for the reconciliation and application of these norms.

The doors to dialogue remain open - a serious and open dialogue for which the Government, in the light of previous experience, requests the cessation of actions against civilians and the presence of the United Nations as facilitator and guarantor of any negotiations that might take place.

Resources and effort have been spent on talks with the ELN, but despite the Government's good intentions, all have been unsuccessful: this included direct dialogue in Havana, the Civil Facilitating Commission, Group of Friendly Countries and even conversations between the President and Felipe Torres.

Actions taken by the Catholic Church with the paramilitaries led to a declaration of Cessation of Hostilities by the latter in December 2002. The Government responded by appointing an Exploratory Commission and opening a dialogue under the direction of the High Commissioner for Peace. The paramilitaries have expressed their willingness to lay down their arms, and have already demobilized nearly 1,000 of their members.

The violation of this cessation of hostilities was put in evidence by the High Commissioner for Peace in his February⁴ report to the public. The Government is confident that the participation of the Organization of American States (OAS), recently defined, will bring a real and effective verification of the cessation of hostilities against civilians, as a precondition for continuing talks with these groups.

The Government is aware of the challenge involved in reconciling the conditions for the demobilization of this group with the demands of justice, truth and reparations to victims. In order to obtain better criteria in this matter, the President opened a public debate to which he invited NGO's and the international community to participate; and the Congress has held public hearings on the matter. At present, the Congress is discussing a draft bill on government

initiative. Civic participation and democratic debate will indicate the legal framework to be used in a possible future demobilization process.

INTERNAL LEGISLATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Mention should be made of the recommendation that particularly requested that members of the armed forces should not be given the functions of judicial police. From the moment that this recommendation first appeared the Government made comments on it, because it believed that it imposed limitations not contracted in international treaties and because the importance or otherwise of the measure depended on an appraisal of the internal situation of Colombia, made by its Congress and under the control of the Constitutional Court.

The magnitude of the threat hanging over Colombia and the weakness of a justice system that is absent from 60% of its territory suggested that such a measure would be advisable. The Legislative Act that contained the measure paid due respect to the country's democratic principles and placed severe controls and restrictions on it, in strict accordance with international law and internal legislation. It also decided that the judicial police functions did not extend to all members of the forces of law and order, but only to specialized units acting under the direction of the Prosecution Service, only in cases of terrorism and only in parts of the country where the judicial police are not present. Procedures are subject to the immediate control of the courts and the Procurator and regular reports to Congress. The powers are limited in time and the members of the special units must receive prior training and may not claim military immunity as a Defence of their actions. In the first half of 2004 the Statute Law developing the Legislative Act will be debated by Congress. It is plain that these are powers to protect the public, not to abuse it.

THE CHALLENGES

As can be seen from this document, the Colombian State has acted positively in relation to those of the Office of the High Commissioner's recommendations that are considered relevant. In some cases, it has been considered that a recommendation cannot be attended to in full and the point has been discussed frankly.

It is probable that more progress might have been made, or that progress might have been faster. Our challenge is to continue to work for the improvement of the human rights situation and in the application of a policy that will fully guarantee rights and freedoms in Colombia. What the Colombian State does not accept is that the application of a policy is contrary to the obligations of the State and to the ideal of human rights shared by all humanity. The policy now being implemented is precisely designed to guarantee rights for everyone and everything in Colombia.

Although the results show that we are on the right track, the Colombian State recognizes that many problems persist; at the same time, it demands understanding on the part of the international community. So many and such complex problems cannot be solved overnight, and some of them merit special concern.

First, there is the incidence of the paramilitaries in violations of human rights, in the middle of a process of dialogue which is intended to secure their demobilization. As the High Commissioner's Office says, there has been a reduction of criminal activities among the

paramilitaries, but they maintain their willingness to impair the rights of many people in this country. The Government has made it a condition of starting the talks that the paramilitaries must declare a cessation of hostilities which will be valid for any armed group.

The High Commissioner for Peace recently issued an assessment of this situation. The Government proposes that the paramilitaries should be concentrated into clearly defined areas in order to take the measures required to secure full compliance with the cessation of hostilities. It is a matter for positive hopes that the OAS has decided to accompany talks and facilitate the verification of agreements made, based on an agreement with the Government signed in February 2004.

Until the paramilitaries go into the concentration areas the Government will continue to act firmly against those who violate the cessation of hostilities, as the results of 2003 show that it did.

Second, the other major expression of the weakness of the State is the effectiveness of the justice system in relation to all types of crime in Colombia.

A package of reforms to the justice system will shortly be sent to Congress; this, together with international cooperation and the adoption of public policy against impunity, is expected to transform the situation.

The Colombian State is aware that the application of a security policy of the kind required by the present situation involves risk in the use of force by the servants of the State. It should be noted that the law-enforcement forces in this country have been taking up their responsibilities with respect for and the guarantee of human rights. While tactical operations have increased 137%, orders from the Procurator for charges to be brought against members of the forces have fallen by 92%.

With regard to the cases presented in the High Commissioner's Report in relation to violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by members of the law-enforcement forces, in contravention of legal obligations, instructions and the orders of their superiors, the Government will strengthen the mechanisms of internal control and will request the organs of control and justice to act with the greatest diligence. "A just accusation will be unhesitatingly punished", said President Alvaro Uribe in his speech to the army in the first few days of his administration.

The Colombian State takes a positive view of the adjustments to recommendations in this report. Most of the recommendations addressed to the State are already part of a policy which is being implemented. Some contain difficulties, such as the review of intelligence files or public access to intelligence information, in the light of the opinion of the Procurator. Some of the recommendations could be interpreted to say that international treaties place limitations on internal legislation; here, the Government would refer to the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court.

For all these reasons, the State will work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to examine the scope and mechanisms to implement and

evaluate the recommendations, and make observations and when it sees fit. This review will be effected in a constructive, broadminded and open spirit in the quest for the common purpose of securing guarantees and protection of all rights for all in Colombia.

The international community may be sure of the will, the commitment and the decision to guarantee rights and freedoms in Colombia, and of the gratitude of its people to those who are sincere in accompanying it in its purpose.

**FIGURES FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION
AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS BY THE LAW-ENFORCEMENT FORCES**

Comparative 2002 - 2003

	2002	2003	% variation
MURDERS	28.837	23.013	-20%
- Union leaders murdered	121	52	-57%
- Mayors murdered	13	9	-31%
- Councillors murdered	80	75	-6%
- Members of Indigenous Groups murdered	180	164	-9%
- Teachers murdered	79	41	-48%
Massacre Victims	680	423	-37%
No. of massacres	115	77	-33%
-Journalists murdered	10	7	-43%
Kidnaps	2.986	2.200	-26%
Raids on villages	32	5	-84%
Explosives attacks on communications towers	62	19	-69%
Explosives attacks on transmission towers	483	326	-32%
Explosive attacks on Pipelines	74	179	141%
Explosives attacks on Bridges	100	33	-67%
Attacks on water supplies	12	3	-84%
Paramilitary casualties caused by the law-enforcement forces	187	346	85%
Paramilitaries captured	1.356	3.166	133%
Guerrilla casualties caused by the law-enforcement forces	1.690	1.919	14%
Guerrillas captured	3.763	6.967	85%

Development

RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTIONS TAKEN	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
Recommendations are addressed to the national authorities of the three arms of the State and supervisory bodies responsible for the protection and advancement of human rights	The Government has expressed “.. its greatest possible willingness to implement them progressively ...” . Mention is made of the intervention of the programme director in Geneva, “the Government of Colombia has made a joint study of the recommendations of the Report with the High Commissioner’s Office there, and we are adopting a plan to implement most of them”	Continue with development of schemes of follow-up and advancement of the recommendations.
1. Calls on the Government to make the SAT early warning system in the Ombudsman work effectively with the participation, cooperation and response of the Vice President and the Ministers of the Interior and Defence.	<p>18 November 2002, creation of the Inter-institutional Early Warning Committee CIAT to centralise government response and make SAT work effectively.</p> <p>Both CIAT and the Office of the Ombudsman trained civil and military authorities in the regions on aspects of the scheme.</p> <p>A follow-up mechanism was implemented as a result of a joint evaluation made with the Office of the Ombudsman.</p> <p>A scheme to complement information for risk reports was designed and applied in order to make an accurate estimate of the imminence of the risk in question.</p> <p>A decision was taken to process all risk reports through regional authorities, regardless of whether a given report was considered to be an early warning.</p> <p>The HR Observatory compares risk reports with HR violations in the regions.</p> <p>CIAT has received, processed and attended to 106 risk reports covering some 150 municipalities, and 56 were considered to be early warnings. Mass violations occurred in only one place (Sabaletas, Buenaventura).</p> <p>Governors elect and mayors elect and the Vice-President signed a commitment that included attention to early warnings and risk reports.</p> <p>Consolidation of CIAT with the engagement of 2 full-time employees for Committee functions, through the cooperation agency US AID-MSD.</p> <p>In February 2004 working meetings were held in four army divisional headquarters to reinforce the new military and civilian authorities in the regions. A presentation was made of the CIAT and an explanation given of the role of the authorities in follow-up to actions taken.</p>	<p>Strengthen the warning follow-up system.</p> <p>Make risk reports of HR violations at regional levels that results will make it more likely that national, departmental (political divisions) and municipal public policy will be implemented in the field of prevention. Regional risk studies will allow for the adoption of more general and strategic measures which should have a positive effect on the situation of a given region.</p> <p>A regional study is being made of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta with the cooperation of the NGO Observatorio para la Paz.</p> <p>Reinforce the training of new military and civil authorities in the regions.</p>
2. Urges Government to ensure that the protection programme for HR defenders, implemented by the	Resources allocated for 2003, \$29,000 million; and USAID also allocated \$5,000 million, thus giving a total of \$34,000 million.	Define the institutional engagement of bodyguards; contracts

<p>HR Department of the Ministry of the Interior, functions effectively. Implement mechanisms to prevent risk factors.</p>	<p>the largest appropriation ever to the programme.</p> <p>The mobile schemes have received \$24,768 million, the Communications Network \$3,439 million and in humanitarian aid, \$2.823 million and has been spent in national and international air tickets \$971 million. Additionally, \$2,268 million was spent on architectural armour premises and bullet-proof vests.</p> <p>In 2004 there is a protection budget of \$30,740 million; and it is hoped that international cooperation will provide \$6,426 million</p> <p>4970 individuals received direct assistance in 2003, and 3870 indirect assistance, giving a total of 8,840 people assisted.</p> <p>\$27.200 million was spent on the protection of union leaders and HR defenders. UP and PCC leaders, \$4,759 million; \$502 million on the protection of journalists; mayors, councilmen and assemblymen, \$2,300 million</p> <p>64 new "hard protection" schemes have been mounted; 52 vehicles have been armoured; temporary relocation assistance was given to 2,236 individuals; 1,200 air tickets have been provided, and there are 2,782 units in the communications network.</p> <p>Many schemes have not been able to be implemented because programme beneficiaries did not accept official bodyguard services. Within the framework of the Government's Social Distension policy, the Vice President has headed regional meetings in Pereira, Valledupar, Barranquilla and Barrancabermeja to obtain a commitment from the local authorities to protect vulnerable people and to afford legitimacy to the actions of opposition groups, NGOs and labour unions.</p> <p>Although the situation is still very serious, the number of murders of union leaders has dropped by 57%.</p> <p>In order to advance the commitment of local authorities to the protection and guarantees of work for the target population for the programmes, two CRER meetings have been held in January and February, in Popayan and Valledupar, with related meetings for local authorities.</p>	<p>will be extended to 30 April.</p> <p>Encourage local and regional authorities to comply with their commitments in protection the population to which the programmes are addressed, and to ensure that they are able to work.</p> <p>Continue holding dialogue and sessions to relieve social tensions, with worker-leaders in Cucuta (29 May), Riohacha (20 May), Monteria (June), Sincelejo (June) and Bogota (July)</p>
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	<p>In 2004 the agreement between the Mayors' Protection Programme and the Federation of Municipalities was implemented, with the support of US AID, top support threatened former mayors. A commitment was also made to set up a similar mechanism to protect former councilors.</p> <p>The component of prevention acquired a central role through the start-up of the decentralisation project for HR and International Humanitarian Law in 16 Departments, in the hands of the Ministry of the Interior and the Presidential HR Programme.</p> <p>In the context of this component, joint work is being done with the Ministry of education, the Procurator and FECODE to encourage the work of the Departmental Committees of threatened teachers in several Departments. The Committees were created by Presidential Decree in November 2003.</p> <p>Also in the interests of prevention, the Minister of Defence issued its Directive 09 on the attention and protection to be afforded to HR defenders and union leaders. The Commander in Chief of the Army issued a permanent directive on the matter in December, and the Commander in Chief of the Police issued related instructions.</p> <p>Led by the Vice-President and the Minister of Social Protection, the Government has set up sessions for dialogue and the relief of social tensions with worker-leaders in Cali (23 January). Arauca (5 February), Bucaramanga (6 February), Pereira (19 February) and Medellin (20 February).</p>	
<p>3. Urges the Attorney General of the Nation to introduce the witness and victim protection programme for which it is responsible, so that risks may be rapidly identified and measures taken promptly to face them.</p>	<p>The Attorney General of the Nation and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights signed a letter of understanding on 7 November 2003, in which the latter is to advise the former in order to strengthen it with a technical cooperation project. The cooperation project includes- amongst other things- the adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the Officer of the High Commissioner in prevention and protection, including the recommendation on the Protection Programme.</p> <p>To strengthen the Witness and Victim Protection Programme, consultants were contracted in January 2004 to identify strengths and weaknesses in terms of the</p>	

	<p>coordination of operations, administration and security, and in terms of budget. The report of the consultants of the Colombia Office of the High Commissioner presented in June 2001 has been valuable. The consultants' report was presented to the consideration of the High Commissioner and the Attorney General of the Nation on 24 February 2004, in order to reinforce some of the recommendations and reformulate others.</p> <p>The current administration of the Programme has made efforts to advance a number of matters of interest related to the decision to review the evaluations of threats and risks and basic requirements for an appropriate and prompt service.</p> <p>At the same time the possibility of drawing up plans of action for the new legal regulations is being explored in order to define the role of protection of victims and witnesses in the new accusatory system.</p> <p>Initiatives are being designed to strengthen the training of officials for the program and the Prosecutors of the user units.</p> <p>Finally, the program has started to encourage the relocation of witnesses and those who take part in the SENA production projects, depending on the level of risk, so that under an inter-institutional agreement they will be able to develop their skills and attain technical achievements.</p>	
<p>4. Exhorts Government to achieve joint identification by the Office of the Ombudsman and the UN of communities at risk due to the armed conflict; and in concert with those communities, implementation of actions and programmes for preventive attention and protection. In relation to displaced communities, the Guiding Principles for Internal Displacement should be followed strictly.</p>	<p>In furtherance of the precautionary and preventive measures ordered by the Human Rights Commission and the Court, respectively, there is monthly joint follow-up by the applicants, the Government, State agencies and the communities in the cases of San Jose de Apartado, Cacarica, Emberakató and Kamkuamos.</p> <p>Every two months government officials visit the communities, some of which have a Community Ombudsman.</p> <p>The Foreign Ministry, the Social Solidarity Network and the Vice President have been working with the UN to identify strategies for protection, and have made visits to Choco and Catatumbo.</p> <p>The Minister of Defence called security meetings in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and Tierralta, which produced a series of action plans to protect the various indigenous communities.</p> <p>The President headed an indigenous security</p>	<p>The Government designed a mechanism for permanent accompaniment for the kamkuarnos in the Sierra Nevada and the communities in the massif and the Middle and Lower Atrato.</p> <p>The project will need financing by the international community.</p> <p>Continue with indigenous community councils.</p>

	<p>meeting in Popayan on 15 December. It was agreed that an indigenous Community Council would be held in Popayan in the second half of April, and measures were taken for Cauca. The departments where the policy decentralization project operates are taking special care to protect communities at risk.</p>	
<p>5. Urges Government and Congress should supply the Procurator-General's Office and the Ombudsman's Office with the resources they need to set up a presence in municipalities where they are not present, especially in rehabilitation areas and zones of consolidation and regions with a large displaced indigenous and Afro-Colombian population.</p>	<p>The Vice President held coordination meetings with those responsible for HR issues in those institutions. In the case of the Ombudsman, this was done with the Director of SAT and in the Procurator General's Office, with the Prevention Director. It was agreed that the Office of the Ombudsman would send a proposal for the allocation of funds from the national budget, but this has not yet been received.</p> <p>The Procurator General's Office said at the meetings that it did not need additional funds for 2003-4.</p> <p>The Procurator's office with the support of the Swedish Government, will develop the Project "Legal control and improved surveillance of public order measures in the framework of the policy of Democratic Security".</p> <p>On 9 December there will be a meeting between the Vice-President, the Ombudsman and the Procurator General's Office to arrange for the practical application of this recommendation and its relationship with the presence of these institutions in the risk areas.</p>	<p>The Office of the Ombudsman and the Procurator General's Office undertook to deliver a detailed m program of their presence in regions of conflict. The program will require financial support from the international community.</p> <p>Implement the pilot programs for establishing the presence of the Office of the Ombudsman and Procurator General's Office in the first half of the year.</p>
<p>6. Calls on the Procurator General and senior officials to impose disciplinary sanctions on agents of the State who by action or omission jeopardise the work of HR defenders</p>	<p>Ministry Directive 9 of 8 July 2003 gives instructions with regard to the protection, support and interlocution with union leaders and NGOs</p> <p>With regard to members of the armed forces accused by the Procurator of serious violations of human rights, 38 complaints were evaluated. 38 preliminary investigations were opened; 18 formal investigations were then made and 10 indictments issued to charge 14 soldiers. Seven findings of guilt and 8 acquittals. (to September 2003)</p>	<p>A review of denunciations made will be conducted jointly with the Procurator General's Office.</p>
<p>7. Exhorts the Procurator General's Office to perform quarterly verification of intelligence reports.</p>	<p>The Vice President met ten representatives from NGOs with Mr. Michael Frühling and it was agreed that the legislation, organisation and doctrine of intelligence services would be reviewed.</p> <p>The Procurator considers that the recommendation should not be applied since it involves the publication of restricted information</p> <p>On 23 January 2004 he sent a letter to the High Commissioner explaining that the</p>	<p>The Ministry of Defense is preparing an internal instruction on this matter.</p>

	<p>information in military intelligence files could not be made public, in accordance with provisions of the Constitutions and Constitutional Court jurisprudence</p> <p>It is obvious that intelligence activities are not addressed to the work of members of HR defender organizations per se..</p>	
8. Encourages the Minister of Defence to include a systematic study of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the formation of members of the law-enforcement forces.	<p>Permanent Directive 800-4 of February 2003 sets out the plan to integrate Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law into Military and Police Doctrine.</p> <p>All formation courses, promotion courses and special studies will have the two subjects incorporated into the content.</p> <p>The Ministry of Defence has agreements with the InterAmerican Institute of Human Rights of San Jose, Costa Rica, International Humanitarian Law institute in San Remo, Italy, Universidad Javeriana, Bogota and Universidad Externado de Colombia, Bogota. These institutions have supported education in these disciplines as instructors/lecturers and in non-formal training activities.</p> <p>The Police have implemented a process of formation in Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law addressed to all police academies, running across all other disciplines.</p> <p>A "teacher's manual for international humanitarian law instruction" has been produced.</p>	<p>The Minister of Defence is assessing the proposal of the UN High Commissioner to evaluate the HR and International Humanitarian Law formation and training programmes.</p>
9. Illegal armed groups		
10. Illegal armed groups		
11. Illegal armed groups		
12. Urges the law-enforcement forces to impose International Humanitarian Law unconditionally, especially with regard to limitation, distinction, proportionality and general protection of the civilian population	<p>Controls: All air operations must be approved by the air-force high command.</p> <p>The presence of the police has been restored in municipalities where there had been none.</p> <p>Permanent formation in International Humanitarian Law is carried out.</p> <p>Permanent training and preparation is being carried out with The International Red Cross Committee, to apply the principles of international humanitarian law in the planning and execution of operations.</p> <p>The latest annual report of the Ombudsman shows that only 261 of the 9000 denunciations of International Humanitarian Law violations attributable to an identifiable individual, were attributable to members of the law-enforcement forces.</p>	<p>Permanent presence of the Procurator's Office and the Ombudsman's Office, as provided in Recommendation 5, should help to control the application of International Humanitarian Law by the law-enforcement forces.</p>
13. Calls on the parties to the armed conflict to fulfill international obligations that prohibit the use, storage, production and transfer of anti-	<p>Action of Anti-Personnel mines in the components of prevention, assistance for victims, information handling and humanitarian clearance of mines.</p> <p>Incorporation of the issue in the national</p>	<p>160 studies to be made of risk assessment and potential social, economic and environmental impact.</p>

<p>personnel mines.</p>	<p>development plan. Definitive shutdown of the armed forces' anti-personnel mine factory. Compliance with the timetable for the destruction of mines by the law-enforcement forces (1291 mines already destroyed). Decentralisation of the process of formation of regional anti-mine committees. Inter-institutional coordination of care for victims. Training of more than 900 members of the public. Distribution of 20,000 prevention leaflets. Design of mass media campaign. 20,000 bulletins with an analysis of ten prioritised Departments have been distributed. \$2,500 million allocated in the 2004 budget for the anti-personnel mine campaign. Work is being done to harmonize the National Action Plan with departmental plans (Antioquia and Meta). A system of monitoring and evaluation of attention to victims is being designed</p>	<p>Continue with the implementation of the national anti-personnel mines action plan. In particular, for the first half of 2004, design a national signposting plan and a national communications strategy for the prevention of accidents with mines.</p>
<p>14. Recommends the Government, the illegal armed groups and representative sectors of civil society to spare no effort in making approaches designed to obtain dialogue and negotiation, taking account of HR and International Humanitarian Law, the right to the truth, justice and reparations.</p>	<p>The president requested the good offices of the UN Secretary General in restoring dialogue with the illegal armed groups, In response, the latter appointed a special representative for Colombia. The Government has had contact with the ELN in Cuba and Itagui (Colombia) The Government requested the support of the Catholic Church in approaches designed to secure the release of prisoners of the illegal armed groups. A dialogue has taken place with the paramilitaries with regard to possible demobilisation. Some 140 minors have disengaged themselves from their ranks, and members of the Cacique Nutibara group, who used to operate in urban Medellin, have demobilised. The Government proposed a law to facilitate demobilisation and peace, taken account of the rights of victims. The law is subject to approval by democratic debate. The President has invited the international community to make suggestions in order to improve the bill.</p>	
<p>15. Calls on the Government and Congress to adopt policies and laws which pay due attention to Colombia's obligations in relation to HR and International Humanitarian Law. It urges the measure taken in relation to security and public order should take account of international principles of legality, need,</p>	<p>Following the presentation of the High Commissioner's Report, the Government has made some comments on this recommendation. It says that it shares the spirit of the recommendation entirely, but, in relation to the point regarding judicial police functions for the law-enforcement forces, it does not agree with the interpretation made thereof whereby the measures are per se in violation of international treaties. The</p>	<p>The Government will effect permanent follow-up of the controls set forth in the bill and endeavour to ensure that they are effectively developed in statute law.</p>

<p>proportionality, temporary application and non-discrimination. In particular it urges the Government and Congress not to introduce norms into the local legal order which allow members of the law-enforcement forces to perform the functions of judicial police or others not compatible with the independence of the administration of justice.</p>	<p>Government stated that the measures to be adopted should conform to both treaty stipulations as to the needs imposed by the circumstances of this country, so strongly affected by terrorist actions.</p> <p>The Government has sent a constitutional reform bill to Congress, so that the institutions will have the appropriate tools to combat terrorism. Among them is the possibility to create Special Judicial Police Units manned by members of the law-enforcement forces, but under the direction of the Attorney General of the Nation, to perform these functions in zones of intense conflict or of difficult access. It should also be noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In many zones of the country there is no presence of the judicial authorities, access is difficult and many acts have been committed against the civil rights of civilians by illegal armed groups. - Therefore the investigative activities of the State in such situations are severely curtailed - Members of the judiciary shall assess the objects (evidence) and information collected by these Units - The Units shall be under the management and coordination of the Attorney General of the Nation. - The scope of application of these powers is geographically limited to areas where such work is strictly necessary. - Action is limited to the fight against terrorism and crimes against public safety. - The members of the Units will be subject to the same regime of duties and will not be covered by military immunity. - The powers are temporary (for 4 years). - As with all the other measures these powers are subject to judicial, disciplinary and political control. - The measure does not affect the impartiality of a court, the presumption of innocence, the right to dispute evidence, the rapidity of judgment, the right not to incriminate oneself, the existence of a second instance or the principle of <i>non bis in idem</i>. - An accusation made on the basis of information or evidence collected is 	
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	<p>not a definitive determination of the guilt of the accused.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members of the Units will receive technical training. <p>In conclusion, this legislation is necessary in the resent circumstances of Colombia, and it is in harmony with international treaties binding on Colombia.</p>	
<p>16. Urges the Attorney general to send a bill to Congress concerning conditions of careers for officials and employees of the Attorney General of the Nation's Department in order to make then institution more independent and impartial</p>	<p>It should be noted that a draft statute law has been sent to Congress. It seeks efficiency and excellence in the rendering of the service and equality of conditions for entry, work and severance, based on merit.</p> <p>The guiding principles of the project are the classification of jobs, the selection process, contests, provision of posts, performance appraisal and withdrawal from the Attorney General of the Nation's Department.</p> <p>The expectations of the Attorney General of the Nation's Department in terms of cooperation from the Office of the high Commissioner are in the area of the definition of employee profiles to meet the qualifications which should ensure that employees remain in the Attorney General of the Nation's Department and specialize in different areas. There was recently an agreement between the Attorney General of the Nation's Department and the Office of the High Commissioner to open a tender for consultancy work in this area.</p> <p>Finally, the intention is that Prosecutors will have the professional qualifications to perform their work through improved methods of contracting and professional legal training.</p> <p>There was also an agreement between the Attorney General of the Nation's Department and the Office of the High Commissioner to open a tender for consultancy work in this area.</p>	
<p>17. Calls on the Attorney General of the Nation to guarantee and strengthen the independence of the Human Rights and international humanitarian Law Unit, securing the protection of its members and providing it with the resources it needs to conduct its investigations.</p>	<p>The High Commissioner will support the preparation of a diagnosis of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law unit and the creation of a specialized group to investigate alleged links between public servants and illegal armed groups. The Office of the High Commissioner announced the immediate opening of a tender to contract consultants.</p> <p>In general terms, there is agreement as to the terms of reference presented by the Office of</p>	

	<p>the High Commissioner.</p> <p>The meeting of 24 February discussed the matter of the diagnosis of the Unit, since the Inter-institutional Committee chaired by the Vice-President, with the support of the Embassy of the Netherlands, has started on a diagnosis of the Unit and this could be an input of work for feedback on the work of the High Commissioner's consultant.</p> <p>The Office of the High Commissioner announced the immediate opening of a tender to contract consultants.</p>	
18. Exhorts the Attorney General of the Nation to establish as part of the Human Rights and international Humanitarian Law Unit a specialized group to investigate possible links between members of the forces and the paramilitaries; and exhorts international cooperation organizations to support this initiative.	See the previous point (17) for progress in this area.	
19. Calls on the Minister of Defence to suspend from duty forthwith any members of the law-enforcement forces involved in HR violations and war crimes, reporting then facts as relevant to the judicial authorities and control agencies.	<p>44 members of the law-enforcement forces have been suspended in 2003 (25 army, 18 police and 1 marine infantry) after decisions on investigations made by the Attorney General of the Nation HR Unit.</p> <p>The Ministry of Defense will continue to comply with decisions regarding suspensions produced in criminal or disciplinary proceedings.</p>	
20 Urges the Special Committee on the conduct of investigations into HR violations and breaches of International Humanitarian Law, chaired by the Vice-President to work actively on a selection of representative cases of violations, and make a quarterly report to the President, the Attorney General of the Nation, the Procurator and the Ombudsman of the People on progress made in these investigations.	<p>On 4 December 2002 the Special Committee met to approve the project for the Fight Against Impunity to be presented to the Government of the Netherlands. The meeting also approved a preliminary selection of 150 cases and the Office of the High Commissioner was invited to be a member of the Committee and its working group.</p> <p>The Dutch government is providing economic support for this initiative under an agreement formalised in June 2003.</p> <p>A working group of the Committee approved a firm list of 115 cases of serious human rights violations on 25 July.</p> <p>On 2 October the working Group approved the selection of 10 cases for priority treatment, at the suggestion of the Office of the High Commissioner.</p> <p>In November and December 8 commissions were sent from the Attorney General of the Nation and the Procurator General's Office to</p>	Continue to execute the project as described in the agreement with the Dutch government. Design a public policy against impunity for human rights violations.

	<p>take up the priority cases.</p> <p>In January and February 2004, 8 further commissions have been dispatched. It is hoped that the number of commissions from the Attorney General of the Nation's Department and the Procurator General's Office will be tripled for the cases selected, especially for the priority cases.</p> <p>The results for November and December 2003 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 126 raids - 54 arrest - 54 preliminary interrogations - 1 extended interrogation - 36 statements - 14 interviews with informers - 45 judicial inspections - 6 exhumations - 12 identity parades - Seizure of matériel, light and heavy weapons, ammunition. Communications equipment, transport equipment, computers, documents, cash, drugs - 1 decision by the Procurator requesting the dismissal of an Army colonel for taking part in the La Cabuya massacre; this was subsequently confirmed by the Vice-Procurator. - The men captured included current and former officers of CTI, finance executives and operators of the paramilitaries, police officers, army officers and policemen. <p>For January and February 2004 the record is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 56 raids - 25 arrests - 25 preliminary interrogations - 4 interviews with informers - Checks - Seizure of much matériel, weapons, ammunition, communications equipment, videos and documents <p>Those captured included a paramilitary group commander, finance executives and material authors of criminal offenses.</p> <p>- On 16 January 2004 the project and the HR/IHL unit agreed on a matrix for the follow up of cases being pursued by the Special Committee. Performance indicators are being designed to measure the results of the project.</p> <p>- .</p>	
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<p>21. Calls on the President to use his attributes as Head of State and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces to take all necessary measures to stop all connections between public servants and members of the paramilitary groups, regardless of the situation of the dialogues between the Government and the paramilitaries; and report to the Procurator and the Ombudsman every six months on the implementation of such measures and their results.</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence Permanent Directive 15 of 23 September 2003 sets out a policy for the fight against the paramilitaries and gives instructions to the Army high command and the police. Instruction 051 of 8 October 2003 contains the practical means of implementation of the Directive. The Centre for the Struggle against the Paramilitaries was reopened. Casualties among the paramilitaries have increased 85%, captures have increased 133% compared to 2002. From 1 January to February 23 of this year, 626 paramilitaries have been captured and 105 casualties caused.</p>	
<p>22. Exhorts the Government to develop a consistent policy which will reduce the disparities present in Colombia and ensure that measures are taken as required to reduce illiteracy and unemployment and increase access to health, education and housing.</p>	<p>477598 new school places have been created in 2003 and it is expected that this will be further increased by 1,500,000 places by 2006. Of the 50,000 places in high education which was the Government's target for 2003, 34,858 (70% compliance) were made available; 19,494 of them (56%) are in private institutions and 15,364 (44%) in public institutions.</p> <p>Unemployment at the end of 2003 was 12.3% at national level, and 14.7% in the 13 largest cities (reported by the statistical bureau DANE).</p> <p>The Government has created 327,000 new jobs in the agricultural sector, a growth of 9.7% in comparison to the rural jobs created in 2002.</p> <p>Agriculture accounted for 3,367,045 jobs in the third quarter of 2002, 3,693,717 in the same quarter of 2003 – 326,672 more. This in turn accounts for almost a quarter of all of the 1.2 million new jobs generated in the economy as a whole between October 2002 and October 2003.</p> <p>In November 2003 the Government's Employment in Action program found 172,329 new jobs.</p> <p>Between August 2002 and March 2003n construction GDP grew approximately 17%.</p> <p>At December 31, 2003 FINDETER had disbursed \$2,769 million, 222.6% of budget (\$1,224 million) for housing loans.</p> <p>Of the 29,417 urban housing subsidies allocated through FONDOVIVIENDA which the Government had committed as a target for delivery in 2003, 20,289 subsidies (69% execution) were delivered.</p>	<p>Apply the national development plan.</p>

	<p>Banco Agrario will also have benefited 7,000 farming families and delivered 9730 rural social interest housing subsidies.</p> <p>The Government target for micro loans for social interest housing in 2003 was 8,000. In the end, 12,152 (152% execution) were allocated.</p> <p>The Government target for new affiliates to the subsidized regime was 300,000. In the event, 1,061,651 affiliated, for the benefit of 11,782,431 people and with a total investment of \$2.1 billion.</p> <p>The target for new affiliations to the contributory regime was 300,000. In the event, 293,722 new affiliates joined for a total of 13,455,963 beneficiaries at the end of 2003.</p> <p>The target for triple-virus vaccination for 2003 was 95% of eligible children. The actual figure was 93.9% (99% execution); and 300,000 children are receiving breakfasts.</p>	
23. Recommends the Government act through the Permanent Intersectorial HR Commission to prepare an HR action plan to incorporate an integrated gender perspective for presentation in the first half of 2003 with a timetable for its implementation.	A methodological proposal has been made, with suggestions of content to be incorporated into the Plan. According to the timetable set, the plan should be agreed and produced at the end of the first half of 2004. The proposal was sent to the UN High Commissioner's Office in September 2003. The Office stated that it was willing to support the work based on the proposal. International recommendations are identified and organized into themes for concertation processes, and progress has been made in compiling the related institutional offer.	Implement the timetable proposed.
24. Recommends that the Education Ministry incorporate HR lessons in primary and secondary study programmes as of the next school year. It recommends that a continuous training programme be contracted with the Ombudsman	<p>In September 2003 the Ministry signed an inter-institutional commitment with the People's Defender in order to "encourage the formation in, respect for and practice of Human Rights in the Colombian Education System", where it was agreed -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to advance activities in coordination and institutional support for the production of a national teaching plan for formation in, respect for and practice of Human Rights in the Colombian Education System, - to implement the mandate of the National Development Plan to implement human rights the Colombian education system. - to establish a team of officials who would be professionals working in the entities, with the following tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To make an inventory of the state- of -the art of human rights education in Colombia and abroad (with an emphasis on Latin America 	Develop commitments acquired with the People's Defender.

	<p>and the Caribbean);</p> <p>b) To evaluate the proposals made on this topic by universities and teaching centres in Colombia;</p> <p>c) To identify and secure possible allies in government and elsewhere, abroad, and in Colombia at national, departmental and local levels, to form part of the process of formulation and implementation of the national plan for the formation in, respect for and practice of human rights in the Colombian education system;</p> <p>d) To design, validate and implement a pilot scheme for the formation of teachers who will be responsible for the national plan for the formation in, respect for and practice of human rights in the Colombian education system.</p> <p>Project work began in October 2003,. So far, the following activities have been completed: a permanent inter-institutional working group has been set up and there is a project consultative committee of which UNDP and ACCI are members. Progress has been made in obtaining knowledge of the programs and projects of each institution, and the conceptual guidelines and policy. The contributions of each institution have been identified, and a communications strategy designed for the Plan. A process for the formation and updating in human rights has been defined for the group, and a support group has been formed from each of the institutions. The minimum criteria the for systematization of national experiences have been decided; it was decided to contract a consultant for components in the project, and this should be defined by mid-March. The product of the consultancy is to have a Plan ready by the end of August 2004.</p> <p>The Education Ministry has drawn up some curricular guidelines for Constitution, Politics and Democracy, Ethics and Human Values and Social Sciences. In those guidelines Human Rights are reference points to guide the design of curricula be educational institutions.</p> <p>In addition, the Education Ministry is developing a programme of Civic Skills as a policy to present the legitimacy of human rights for the education system.</p> <p>The Ministry is also committed to the development of an innovative proposal with the Civic Skills programme, which contains four basic lines of work: Respect for, and</p>	
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	<p>Promotion and defence of Human Rights; the Building for Peace and Coexistence; Participation and Democratic Responsibility; and Plurality, Identity and the Appreciation of Differences. All of these are couched in a context of the wider framework of respect for and promotion and defence of Human Rights, which articulate the three basic lines of work explicitly and transversally. The four lines of work are being developed in a document of quality standards which will guide the evolution of the subject in the education system.</p>	
<p>25. Superior Council of the Judicature, Attorney General of the Nation and Procurator General's Office</p>	<p>In March 2001 the Office of the procurator signed an agreement with the Ombudsman and the Colombia Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which has been in continuous execution since then, to provide training in international human rights law international humanitarian law and disciplinary law, addressed to Municipal Oversight Officers (1098), so far covering about 90% of them.</p> <p>The Supreme Council of the Judicature has designed a national plan for formation and training for high court and lower court justices and judges. Each project (formed by 3-4 areas of training) lasts for about one year. The comprehensive formation and training cycle now offered by the Rodrigo Lara-Bonilla Judicial School to each of the 3,600 justices and judges is a 4-year continuous programme.</p> <p>The Office of the High Commissioner has agreed with the Attorney General of the Nation that it will strengthen the application of international instruments in human rights and international humanitarian law.</p> <p>The Attorney General of the Nation's Department therefore seeks to coordinate with the support of the consultant in making an evaluation of the applicability of human rights concepts acquired by officials in training courses held across the country in 2002, and the implementation of a second phase of training, also nationwide, to provide an opportunity to increase the number of formers in the network through a new invitation.</p> <p>The meeting held on 24 February confirmed the need to develop this phase in the terms proposed by the High Commissioner's Office.</p> <p>The Office also explained that the consultancy phase would be conducted more slowly, given</p>	

	<p>the urgency of starting the other activities planned for other issues.</p> <p>It was repeated that there was a need to reinforce the work of the School as a training centre for the Attorney General of the Nation's Department and a focal point of work on the design of admission courses and preparation for a career in the justice system.</p>	
<p>26. Urges the State to follow up international recommendations, including this Report. And exhorts the Vice-President to act in coordination with, and to use the advisory services of, the Colombia High Commissioner's Office in order to prepare a timetable for the application of the recommendations made by competent international agencies.</p>	<p>- Precise instructions from the Vice-President were issued to all government agencies with responsibilities in this field, to study and perform actions considered necessary to comply with recommendations accepted.</p> <p>- An inter-institutional team was set up, coordinated by the Director of the HR and International Humanitarian Law Programme of the Office of the Vice-President to make regular evaluations of progress in the implementation of the recommendations.</p> <p>- Regular meetings have been held with officials of the High Commissioner's Office to comment on the progress made in implementation of the recommendations and to hear and embrace suggestions resulting from such meetings.</p> <p>- Action to facilitate working meetings between the High Commissioner's Office and the various agencies of the Government and the State.</p>	<p>Continue with schemes for follow-up of implementation of recommendations.</p>
<p>27. Invites the Government, Congress, the Attorney General of the Nation, the Office of the Procurator and the Office of the Ombudsman to intensify dialogues with the High Commissioner's Office in order to be able to take full advantage of its mandate to advise and provide technical cooperation.</p>	<p>Several ministries and other agencies of the Government and the State maintain regular dialogue with the High Commissioner's Office.</p>	
